

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday Tuesday 4th September 2023 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

Those Present: Cllr S Robson (Chairman), Cllr G Charlton, Cllr J Martin, Cllr WJ Foot, County Cllr N Morphet, (County Council), Nigel Fisher (Northumberland County Council), C Miller (Clerk), four members of the public

2023/75 Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Kay, Cllr D Liddle, Cllr D Bowman, Cllr S Heminsley, H Hinds (Northumberland County Council)

2023/76 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr S Robson declared an interest in the Railway Inn.

Cllr G Charlton declared an interest in allotments.

2023/77 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

Parishioner requested update on drainage at Butt Bank, further to road being marked for repair/replacement. County Cllr advised gully's not actioned were likely due to the Fourstones area being outstanding on County Council schedule. **ACTION: County Cllr to seek clarification.** Parishioner reported there is no option to report bottle bank collection under County Council reporting web page Fix My Street. Hedging requires trimming near to We Fibre boxes, which is landowner responsibility, however there would currently be restrictions due to bird nesting. It was confirmed that alternative providers could be engaged for the fibre optic service, other than the installer. Parishioner had been in contact with Northern Powergrid for several months due to 16 houses fed from the Frankham transformer not appearing on NP records, leading to residents not being informed during emergencies. Nigel Fisher to contact NP regarding the problem.

2023/78 Meeting with Helen Hinds, County Council Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead

Helen Hinds had given apologies, with Nigel Fisher in attendance. County Council were still promoting local emergency plans county wide. Northern Powergrid Foundation funding scheme currently open to community groups, with funds to the value of £20K available. Items such as flasks, wind up torches and sleeping bags could be purchased to help community resilience. The fund could also support batteries/solar power. Newbrough Hall Committee had acquired a generator through the NP funding and the Committee and Parish Council should meet to consider further requirements. Cllr S Robson had drafted an emergency plan, being a fairly slimmed down version to include the definition of an emergency, objectives of the plan, a list of useful telephone numbers, and an undertaking by the Parish Council to call a meeting during an emergency, and invite stakeholders to decide on the appropriate course of action. The parish would be divided into roughly four areas, with two Parish Cllr's to take informal responsibility for each area. Door to door checks would be carried out during the next few weeks to informally identify people who may feel vulnerable during an emergency situation. The County Council can provide assistance identifying vulnerable residents, however the general Data Protection Regulations were a problem, with details not being able to be shared until an emergency situation occurs. Once adopted, the plan would be circulated to all residents with reference being made for residents to contact a Parish Cllr if they feel they would require assistance during a major incident. A community asset audit would be beneficial in order to engage parishioners able to assist during an emergency, with Nigel Fisher to provide leaflet drop example. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson to update emergency plan and circulate to Parish Cllr's for adoption. County Council able to organise desk top exercise further to plan being adopted.**

Nigel Fisher left the meeting.

2023/79 Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 3rd July 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 3rd July 2023 be accepted as a true record.

2023/80 Allotments - to receive update on pump for well

D Liddle had advised the pump was working, however at present it is board mounted to use when the manhole is open, but requires drilling through the cement lid to secure it in position. It would be removed in Winter. **ACTION: Drill for**

cement lid to be sourced, with Cllr D Bowman confirming he may be able to action. Cllr WJ Foot to offer advice via to D Liddle.

2023/81 To confirm date of next community litter pick

It was resolved to arrange the next litter pick for 22/10/23, to meet 10am at The Beacon. **ACTION: Article to be placed in October Stanegate. Clerk to arrange litter picking equipment.**

2023/82 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance

County Council advised Newbrough Parish Council had not include Mossy improvements in their Local Transport Plan Requests 2024-2025, but had included extending the footpath in front of school house, Butt Bank. No progress had been made regarding sunken road patches at Fourstones crossroads. County Council had advised the average interval of gully emptying is 32 months, with confirmation awaited as to whether this had altered.

2023/82/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages

No progress had been made relating to the County Council design brief for traffic calming past Paper Mill and Hardhaugh. Gardeners had advised they had been terrified when trimming saplings at Hardhaugh due to the speed of vehicles, with a resident also expressing fear. County Council had advised they seldom deviate from the national guidelines relating to speed limits. Temporary warning signage, such as Work In Progress could be provided for the gardeners. **ACTION: G Charlton to speak to gardener(s) and ascertain if they require safety signage, high viz safety clothing etc.**

2023/82/02 Footpath clearance works/hedgerow obstructions

Nothing discussed.

2023/82/03 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters

Foundation work had been actioned.

2023/82/04 To receive update on new location for recycled seating

Warden Estates were to consider the request for proposed seat location at the riverside, at their Committee meeting to be held in three weeks time.

2023/82/05 To consider larger bin for dog waste at Crossgates

It was resolved to procure a larger bin for dog waste at Crossroads. **ACTION: Clerk to ask County Council if they could organise.**

2023/82/06 To receive update on play area repairs

Gravel still requiring clearing from play area. **ACTION: J Martin to speak to pub tenant(s).**

2023/83 Planning

2023/83/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/02526/LBC: The Gin Gan, Fourstones – Listed Building Consent for replacement windows – no objections.

2023/83/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 23/00331/FUL: Wyvern, Butt Bank, Fourstones – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling
- 23/02219/FUL: The Croft, Fourstones – Extension and renovation of existing detached dwelling

2023/83/03 Planning Application withdrawn

- 23/01164/LBC: The Gin Gan, Fourstones – Listed Building Consent: Replacement of 15 windows on south west elevation

2023/83/04 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals

Applicant had not submitted planning application in order that pre-commencement conditions can be discharged.

2023/84 Reports

2023/84/01 Town Hall

No report.

2023/84/02 Northumberland County Council

County Council had declared an ecological emergency 11/7/23. County Cllr encouraged parish councillors and parishioners to push the County Council to act on the declaration by referring to it in all communication with the County Council which concerns issues which impact on wildlife (for example, the management of council land).

County Cllr Riddle to represent Tynedale on the new Local Bus Board. County Cllr Morphet happy to pass suggestions for how our bus services could be improved to the Local Bus Board on parishioners' behalf.

County Cllr carried out a presentation on river quality in Warden parish.

According to an article in The Telegraph, sewage spills have risen 29-fold over five years. Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) data, broken down by water company, is published annually by the Environment Agency: Defra Data Services Platform. It shows how well sewage outlets are monitored and for how many hours sewage was spilled from each asset. No spillage events in the EDM spreadsheet are of treated sewage. The reasons for the spillages aren't given, so (although most will be legal) some could be illegal. Northumbrian Water has 1,552 sewage assets in total. Colwell sewage treatment works was the worst offender in the North East in 2022, and is subject to an ongoing investigation. Allendale second worst and Bellingham third worst offender in the North East (both due to lack of hydraulic capacity). During 2022 there had been 7,726 hours of spillage on the North Tyne and 4,251 hours on South Tyne (so in total 11,977 hours of sewage spillage upstream of Watersmeet). The real figures, however, would be higher. NWL's Pollution Manager to provide County Cllr with an update on what is being done about the problem.

By 2022 NWL were monitoring 98.6% of assets across the North East (average = 91%). Every sewage asset in the Humshaugh ward is now monitored. Average number of spills per monitored sewage asset in North East was 25.3 in 2021 and 20.3 in 2022. Total number of spills in North East has fallen from 36,483 in 2021 to 29,697 in 2022. Average spill duration per asset in North East has fallen from 6.0 hours in 2021 to 3.6 in 2022. Total spill duration in North East was 220,560 hours in 2021 and 107,536 in 2022. Total spill duration in Northumberland was 60,823 hours in 2021 and 33,055 in 2022. This July's Environmental Performance Assessment had given NWL 3/4 overall, and green ratings for all aspects of pollution control. However, it gave NWL an amber rating for discharge permit compliance.

Customer bills had risen up by 43% since the water companies were privatized, but investment in the sewage system had been cut by almost a fifth in that time. Over £100 of customers' annual water bill is used to pay shareholder dividends. NWL is owned by CK Hutchinson Holdings Ltd – which scored 2/15 for its ethics by Ethical Consumer magazine. NWL has to publish near real-time pollution data, but hasn't yet.

County Cllr suggested volunteering for the Tyne Rivers Trust, following The Telegraph's Clean Rivers Campaign (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/clean-rivers-campaign/>), inviting Northumbrian Water's Pollution Manager to a future parish council meeting and pushing for Bathing Water Status for Tyne Green in Hexham.

2023/84/03 Sportsfield Association/ Newbrough First School – Repair to MUGA steel fencing - to receive update regarding establishing the MUGA as a sustainable community/school facility

Sportsfield Association to submit grant applications to funders in due course.

2023/85 Financial Matters

2023/85/01 Payments to be authorised

- C Miller – salary - £432.91; expenses £93.15; DH Charlton – gardening – £430; B Gustard – gardening - £410

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2023/85/02 To receive update regarding defibrillator at Fourstones

It was resolved a funding application would be submitted to the Community Foundation for 50% of the cost of a defib, to be installed at the filling station, and if unsuccessful the Parish Council would fund 100% of the cost. **ACTION: Clerk to submit application. Cllr J Martin to speak to pub tenant regarding defib at Boatside Inn, as it was understood an out of use notice had been placed on it.**

2023/85/03 To approve repair/repainting of Parish Council noticeboard

Parish Council noticeboard at Boatside Inn requires minor attention (coronation bench also requiring attention at some point). It was resolved to spend up to £50 to carry out improvements. **ACTION: Cllr WJ Foot to repair, Cllr G Charlton to repaint.**

2023/86 The Railway Inn

Resident had complained about the Railway Inn surroundings becoming overgrown. **ACTION: Clerk to advise owner that local residents were concerned the building was becoming an eyesore, and ask if could be tidied up.**

2023/87 To receive update from Climate Change Group

Climate Change Group had not met recently. County Cllr advised there is a lot of support for community energy projects, with advice available and signposting to suitable sources of funding. Northern Powergrid were looking for communities to get involved in Community Distribution System Operator pilots, which will involve ways for communities to manage energy use to reduce the demand on the grid. Meeting arranged with AECOM to initiate the procurement process for the greenway feasibility study alongside the Mossy. If costs less than £10K it will not have to go to tender, however funds will need to be raised. Further to government ban on new fossil fuel boilers, an M.P had suggested an amendment to the energy bill to permit rural household to use hydro treated vegetable oil run boilers, which produce one 10th of the carbon emissions.

2023/88 To consider Crises Management in the parish

Discussed earlier.

2023/89 To receive notice of Town and Parish Conference at County Hall, 5th October 2023 2pm to 6pm

Town and Parish Conference to be held at County Hall, Thursday 5th October 2023, 2pm to 6pm.

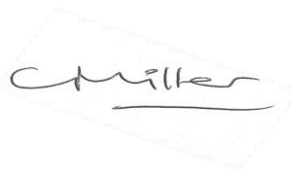
2023/90 To receive items for next meeting

There were no items for the next meeting.

2023/91 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th November 2023 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

The meeting closed at 910pm



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
--------	-------------

Allotments	Cllr D Liddle to source drill for cement lid, Cllr D Bowman and WJ Foot to assist/advise.
Defibrillator(s)	Clerk to submit funding application to the Community Foundation. Cllr J Martin to contact pub tenant regarding out of service notice that has been placed on defibrillator
Crossgates dog waste bin	Clerk to contact County Council to ask if they could place wheely bin in place of existing smaller bin
Outstanding gulley clearance works	Count Cllr to re-contact County Council for update
Play area	Cllr J Martin to contact pub tenant regarding gravel in play area
Crises Management	Cllr S Robson to re-circulate draft emergency plan for adoption. Meeting to be arranged between Newbrough Hall Committee and Parish Council regarding additional application to Northern Powergrid fund. Parish Cllrs to ascertain parishioners who may require assistance during emergencies
Litter pick	Scheduled for 22.10.23, 10pm at the Beacon. Article to be placed in October Stanegate.
Gardener safety measures	Cllr G Charlton to speak to gardeners regarding any requirements for safety measures, eg. Road signage/hi viz clothing
Noticeboard at Warden	Cllr WJ Foot to repair, Cllr G Charlton to re-paint